



# Lunenburg Public Schools

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**Loxi Jo Calmes**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, October 1, 2014  
Town Hall- 7:00 p.m.

## Minutes

### School Committee

Gregory Berthiaume  
Michael Mackin  
Colleen Shapiro  
Brendan Grady-absent  
Heather Sroka

### Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

### Recording Secretary

Liz Petersen

### Student Representative

Sophia Holman

### Guests

John Londa, Director of Facilities  
Brian Spadafino, LHS Principal  
Tim Santry, THMS Principal  
Elaine Blaisdell, Primary School Principal  
Steve Malandrinos, IT Director

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\* Call to Order: Dr. Gregory Berthiaume called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Berthiaume relayed a minor adjustment to the agenda schedule to allow for a donation to be brought forth. Superintendent Calmes expressed her sincere gratitude of the donation of over \$1,500.00 from Jim LaVeck & Family in memory of Bob Meek-LaVeck for the purchase of a new Buddy Bench at the Primary School. This donation was a testament to how Bob lived his life with empathy and the value of friendship. The Buddy Bench will be used for students who need a caring friend to talk to or play with. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval & gratitude for purchasing and installing the bench and memorial plaque attached to the bench in Bob's name. When installed, a special dedication ceremony will be communicated to the public. Mr. Mackin made a motion to accept this donation with gratitude, Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous.**

\* Review and Approve Minutes: There were minutes for approval from the September 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup> Regular Session. All minutes approved per the committee.

\* Review and Approve Warrants: Warrants were on the table for signature and there were three line item transfers for approval. These were for salaries for a transition teacher and social worker within the new Transitions program at LHS. This was funded through monies previously put towards out of district students who are now being transitioned back to LHS through this new program. An additional transfer was for \$1,142 into an instructional materials line from a tuition line for the purchase of books. Line item transfers were signed by the committee.

\* Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Calmes reminded parents that School Office Pro, the new student enrollment and registration system, is now operational and can be accessed through the parent portal system. This will allow parents the opportunity to review handbook information and update any forms or beginning of year information necessary. This also allows the school secretaries to review the information online to make sure it is accurate and can be linked into our Power School system for data purposes. At the beginning of the school year information was sent home to parents with directions on how to access this system. However, only 10% of parents

*1025 Massachusetts Avenue, Lunenburg, Massachusetts 01462  
978 582-4100 ~ fax 978 582-4103*

are utilizing this at this point. Please call the main office of your child's school or the Superintendent's office if parents have any questions. Computers will be available within each school during parent-teacher conferences to access this office pro system.

- Homecoming will be held on October 18, 2014 with the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the MS/HS Building to be held near the construction site at 1:15pm. Access to this site can be obtained between LHS and TCP parking lot. Superintendent Calmes discussed how the foundations are currently being constructed and the cement is being poured. She hopes the community will come out for this exciting event as well as the parade at noon, Senior Football Parent Day at 2 p.m., and the football game at 2:30 p.m. She encouraged the community to support other sports such as soccer and field hockey games during Homecoming Week, as players are wearing pink for Breast Cancer Awareness while raising money for the cause.
- Superintendent Calmes would like to remind everyone to visit our website as well as read newsletters from principals and the Superintendent's updates for the most updated information available.

\* Student Representative's Report: none noted.

\* School Building Committee Report – Mr. Mackin reported that the building project is continuing on time. Pouring of concrete for the "A" wing for LHS has begun. This will continue for each subsequent wing in the same fashion via form, rebar, and pouring of concrete through November. Currently utility prep work is happening for electric, sewer, and the gas line to be completed over Columbus Day weekend. Expecting irrigation system to happen this week, and provider for sod has been notified for delivery purposes. Will see practice field completed within next couple of weeks, as the goal is to make sure it is available for next September. Walk-around at construction site today with field rep, exciting to watch the beautiful campus being constructed.

\* Public Comment: None

\* Old Business:

1. Second Reading of Policies-Fingerprinting and Bullying & Harassment: Superintendent Calmes reported that there had been no public comment or input to date, but we will continue to make this information available. Mr. Mackin made a motion to waive the second reading of these policies. Ms. Shapiro seconded, **Vote: Unanimous**

2. Calendar Advisory Appointment: Dr. Berthiaume stated that committee will be appointed tonight consisting of 2 members of the school committee, 1 parent from each school, 2 students from LHS, 2 parents at large, and 1 member of the Wellness Committee. Appointments are as follows: Brandon Kibbe-Primary rep, Ami Powers-THMS Rep, Katie McGuire-LHS rep, Amanda Waltz-at large, Louis Bettencourt-at large, Dr. Gary Asher-Wellness Committee rep, 2 students. Charge is to explore alternative yearly calendar structures such as starting school before or after Labor Day, possibility of a March break, and to suggest different start/dismissal times to the school day. This is to accommodate recent research that high school students can benefit from a later start time. The first deliverable to recommend would be the proposed calendar at the first meeting in December. The second deliverable would be proposed start/dismissal times of school by the first week of March. Mr. Mackin made a motion to appoint the full slate of advisory members not including student reps, as names of interested students had not been forthcoming. At this point Mr. Spadafino relayed the names of two interested students: Ashley Wheeler & Ron Hyatt. Mr. Mackin revised his motion to include both students. Ms. Shapiro seconded the motion. **Vote: Unanimous** Dr. Berthiaume explained that meetings would be posted and public, as well as hopefully having public forums for feedback.

3. Capital Plan FY16: Mr. Londa provided an update from last meeting.

a. Asbestos Abatement: Sum of \$232,385 needed to remove asbestos in THMS ceilings, walls above ceilings on entire first floor, as well as hallway on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This is to be finished by the end of summer 2016 in order to relocate the district headquarters, as cabling & wire will have to be run in existing ceilings. Could possibly scope smaller but believe it will increase costs. Previous suggestion by school committee was to possibly tie the asbestos project into the high school demolition to reduce costs. Mr. Londa did not recommend doing this as we would be spending \$100,000 to stay at Passios another year which we could utilize this money for the asbestos project instead. School committee suggested use of the \$138,000 funds we currently have to begin the asbestos abatement project, and spread out over time. Mr. Londa did not recommend splitting the project into parts, as the timeline may be affected which would impact the beginning of the school year. The

school committee requested more options for spreading the project and funds out over time given the magnitude of the project and costs.

b. THMS phone system- Mr. Londa explained that he had met with Voice Systems, and the cost for upgrade will be \$22,000. This will give increased conductivity in phone systems, mobile devices, and email which are all things that will support the current ALICE training. This estimate was \$8,000 less than expected. Realistically looked at the option of open source but it does not appear that we can support this at this time. No substantial savings in upgrading intercom system at the same time as the phone system, but could be completed by the same vendor for \$22,000 as well.

c. Mr. Londa stated that the Grounds shed would be taken down in the Fall of 2016. Will be relocated to THMS where electrical feeds are already. Work will hopefully be done by Monty Tech students to frame, and arrangements will be made for portables to be removed.

d. Mr. Malandrinos, IT Director spoke about the Technology plan, being as frugal as possible. Administration laptops replacement including secretaries would be \$900 each for 12 replacements. Five large color printers in the 10 year old range would be \$1200 each. Three switches will also be replaced for more network connectivity. Replacement backup software for tuning into virtual servers will be a total of \$36,200. Superintendent Calmes relayed that an approved plan is needed by the 17<sup>th</sup>.

\* New Business –

1. Unitil Easement Agreement: Required for new service for the MS/HS building to work on power lines and transformers on school grounds as needed. Verizon is included in this agreement as well. No questions asked. Superintendent Calmes recommended approval & requires a signatory designated from the school committee in order for the easement agreement to be signed and notarized. Recommended Dr. Berthiaume to be designated as signatory. Mr. Mackin motioned to approve agreement and designate Dr. Berthiaume as signatory. Ms. Shapiro seconded. **Vote: Unanimous**

2. Spring 2014 MCAS Results: Superintendent Calmes explained that all results are at the DESE website. School Committee workshop reviewing assessment data will be held next Tuesday at 7pm in TCP Room #13. All student reports went home on Monday

a. LHS- Mr. Spadafino acknowledged Superintendent Calmes and the school committee for their support the last few years during difficult budget years, as well as thanking the staff and students for all of their hard work and high achievements. Eighth grade results are as follows: ELA was 92% advanced/proficient which was 13% higher than the state average, Math was 67% advanced/proficient which was 15% higher than the state average, and Science was 38% advanced/proficient which was 4% lower than the state average and will be assessed further. Tenth grade results were: ELA was 96% which was 6% higher than the state average, Math was 87% which was 8% higher than the state average, and Science was 90% which was 19% higher than the state average. Accountability data met or exceeded target, and low income and students with disabilities were above target.

b. THMS- Mr. Santry explained that accountability data showed that THMS was a Level 2 school. Missed target to have continuous improvement and become a Level 1 school this year. All students and disabilities showed improvement while there was a decline in low income and high needs. Sixth grade 40% in advanced/proficient range. In Seventh grade, the percentage of students in the advanced/proficient range was double the state average. In the warning category, THMS falls below the state average in all tested areas in all grade levels. THMS is at or above average of the state average in all tested areas in all grade levels. School improvement plan looking at median student growth percentiles within a two year period. Five out of 8 tested areas, median student growth score is 50-60% which achieves goal. Other three tested areas below 50% growth. Interventions in place working with a curriculum specialist to improve strategies. Fostering more relationship with Junior Great Books, as improvement was seen last year. Will continue to provide professional development in vertical teaming with the Primary and LHS for student transitioning purposes. Mr. Santry will play a larger role in reviewing and evaluating results of student growth. Mr. Mackin commented as to Mr. Santry's enthusiasm in supporting the recent Penny Wars by getting his hair shaved and colored in front of students. Penny Wars raised over \$7,000 in five days.

c. Primary School- Ms. Blaisdell stated that they have been working hard to relive the third graders fears towards MCAS by assuring them that this is an ongoing learning opportunity that they have had ample preparation for. Had first MCAS pep rally this year. Results are as follows: ELA 65% advanced/proficient, 29% needs improvement, and 6% warning which translated to 6 students total. These were similar scores to the year before. In Math, 78% were advanced/proficient, 16% needs improvement, and 6% warning. Looking at CPI

(composite performance index), high needs students scored 73.6 in ELA and 77.1 in Math. Non high needs scored 94.1 in ELA and 97.0 in Math. Areas to focus will be in the RTI area and identifying the main idea of a passage in ELA. Superintendent Calmes explained that across the district one action we have taken for ELL students is to hire 2 full time ELL teachers to support teachers working with these students and to support the actual students themselves. She thanked the administrators for their focus and commitment to their students and staff.

3. Donations: Wal-Mart donated \$450 which will be used towards a robotic program run by Mr. Belair at THMS & LHS. Target Take Charge of Education Program has donated \$443.94. Superintendent Calmes recommended acknowledging these with gratitude. Mr. Mackin made a motion, Ms. Shapiro seconded, **Vote Unanimous**

\* Public Comment – Mr. David Rodgers spoke about the pride he felt seeing local businesses such as Powell whose owners grew up in Lunenburg, being able to participate in the new building project. Concerned that a reference was made recently to the future of Kid’s Kingdom Playground in memory of Connor Lourens. Wanted to solicit a strong intervention to ensure that nothing would happen to this playground and it would not move. Dr Berthiaume stated that it was not the intention of the school committee to move this. Clarification made as to the Passios Building & Land-the school committee has every intention of turning this over to the Town when appropriate. Have had a long discussion at the last meeting about the 30 parking spots referenced next to TCP and being 40 feet away from the building. Have asked the building committee to look at possibly moving the 30 spots, and their response was that this would be too expensive. The Building Re-Use committee will ultimately decide the future of TCP and land. Mr. Rodgers encouraged the committee to consider the use of this land in the future due to the growth in town. Dr. Berthiaume encouraged Mr. Rodgers to speak with the Re-Use Committee. Discussion as to where district offices will be. Plan shown to Mr. Rodgers, and it was relayed that they will be at THMS as the Brooks House property will be going back to the Town as well when appropriate. Mr. Rodgers proposed a “buddy system” to address bullying concerns; Mr. Spadafino spoke to all of the programs they have instituted that address bullying. Examples are the Big Sibs, Best Buddies, Advisory programs, etc. Superintendent Calmes explained that every day curriculum work is being done district wide in response to updates in state mandates for bullying and harassment. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Best Buddies will be making a presentation to the school committee. Lastly, Mr. Rodgers commented that he would like to be involved in helping to provide a program for computers for every student.

\* Reports

- a. Finance Committee – appointment committee met yesterday, Caroline Griffis & Jay Simeone appointed, Mr. Thomas Alonzo and Mr. Murphy remaining. There is one seat opening.
- b. School Councils – Ms. Sroka reported that the Primary met last Wednesday, made calendar, making goals, and concerned parent wants to make parents more aware if there is head lice found in a classroom. THMS meets on October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- c. PTO – Ms. Sroka reported that Superintendent Calmes was present for the last meeting on Monday. Costume Party with Kosmic Kelly will be on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Cherry Hill donated \$300 from the fundraiser to the PTO. PTO helped with Penny Wars at THMS. Thank you to Kim Hedlund and all employees of DCU for counting pennies for 2 hours every day at the John Fitch Highway location. Next meetings are October 20<sup>th</sup> in the evening, and October 27<sup>th</sup> during the day at the library.
- d. Policy Sub-Committee- They have met last Thursday, and are still working on policies.
- e. Capital Planning Committee – Ms. Sroka reported that they met on Monday, the chair is Jamie Toale and Vice Chair is Dennis Manoni. They set the calendar and the first meeting will be October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30pm-7pm.
- f. Wellness Advisory Committee – Ms. Shapiro reported the next meeting will be on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:45pm in the THMS Library.
- g. PAC/SAL – have not met since last meeting, next meeting will be October 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am in TCP Room #13.
- h. Re-Use: Mr. Mackin reported that they have begun to look at additional parking in the back. Discussed cost impact, and needing to coordinate with current drainage situation. At next SBC meeting next Wednesday, they will continue this parking discussion. Next meeting of re-use committee will be on Monday at 6:30pm.

\* Items for Future Discussion: Need to set goal setting workshop dates.

\* Adjournment – Mr. Mackin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Ms. Sroka seconded. **Vote:**  
**Unanimous.**

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Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Petersen  
Recording Secretary